

LEACHING TILE FIELD

The typical sewage system installed throughout the country for decades has utilized a septic tank and a leaching tile field. By design, the sewage flows out of the tank and into either a clay tile or perforated pipe that is laid in trenches. The wastewater then drains from the pipes and enters the soil where it must be filtered and absorbed. This effluent must be properly filtered so that it does not pose a threat to ground water.

Leaching tile fields work well in areas with well drained, sandy soils. Unfortunately, much of Cuyahoga County consists of relatively poorly drained clay soils. These soils typically have little absorption capacity. The soil permeability - the rate at which water percolates into the soil - is very slow. Poorly drained soils are typically saturated with water during wet weather and stay wet for long periods of time after a heavy rain.

Leaching tile fields are designed to keep all of the effluent on lot. If your system utilizes a leachfield and is instead discharging off lot, your system is not operating properly. Leachfields will fail once the soil can no longer absorb the water that is being sent there from the septic tank. Once this occurs, the wastewater will either pond on top of the ground or find an alternative path and be discharged onto the ground at another location.

